

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Thursday, March 20, 2014**

**Michael S. Pinto Conference Room**

**Members Present:**

**Theresa Spengler, Chairman**

**Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Vice-Chairman**

**Liana Fenton**

**Paul Mankofsky**

**William O'Connell**

**Also Present:**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools**

**Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent**

**Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager**

**Edward Collins, Director of Facilities**

**Shawn Brown, Town Administrator**

**The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:05 p.m.**

**Administrative staff members present were Michael Mancieri and Donna Murphy.**

**The total proposed FY 2014-15 budget is \$38,775,555. We are requesting a 3.24% increase from last year. Enterprise funds are self-supporting and self-sustaining, which include athletic gate receipts, afterschool summer programs, and the school lunch program.**

**Increases within the budget include contractual increases, special education tuition, tuition for state schools, post-employment benefit payments, pension reform, dental premiums, Worker's Compensation, and utility costs. Savings within the budget include a decrease in medical buybacks, an increase in employee co-share of premiums, one year reduction in athletic stipend, 3.4% decrease in medical premiums, and the use of Impact Aid prior year payments.**

**Local tax appropriation and State Aid fund 90% of the total budget. A major challenge is that we are in the 4th year of a 10-year transition with the funding formula.**

**74.23% of the budget is for employee compensation; salaries and benefits. Since the adoption of the funding formula we have eliminated 21.9 positions.**

**Mrs. Spengler commented that it is disturbing that we are taking away the supports that students need to succeed, such as guidance counselors and reading specialists. This needs to be conveyed in the Letter of Transmittal to the Town Council.**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To close the**

**Budget Workshop at 6:30 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. All School Committee members were present. Administrative staff members present were Michael Mancieri, Steve Ponte, and Michelle Fonseca.**

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**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To move “Proclamations and Awards” up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.**

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**•Student Awards – Three “Newport Daily News Athletes of the Week” were recognized.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**“Child Opportunity Zone”**

**Christine Arouth has been the Director of the Newport Family and Child Opportunity Zone for 18 years. They follow the National Community Schools model. The Mission is to provide support services and referrals to children and their families in school and community settings, in partnership with Newport Public Schools, parents, and the community. COZ has been a program of EBCAP since 2009. Ms. Arouth has a lot of experience writing grants.**

**To date they are working on hiring a coordinator, have met with principals to determine priorities for this year and next, and are working on April vacation camp and the summer program.**

**COZ also coordinates the Parents As Teachers Program in Newport. They are currently working on connecting families with resources, Afterschool programs, and enrichment opportunities. They have a family involvement specialist to help bring families in for activities.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

- No “Student Activities” for March 20, 2014.**

## **INFORMATION**

**Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:**

- Flyer on Project Lead The Way, which is a STEM program.**

- PARCC pilot administration
- Gaudet Times, featuring the Krupowicz Planetarium
- Donation Letters
- 2014 Middletown Teacher of the Year
- Vaccination clinic information
- Letter of Support for Middletown Library grant
- Newport Life, featuring the Krupowicz Planetarium
- Forest Avenue and Aquidneck School's Westward Ho Celebration

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## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No "Correspondence" for March 20, 2014.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.**

- Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2014 Budget Workshop
- Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2014 Budget Workshop and School Committee Meeting
- Approval of the following vouchers:

## **February Voucher Summary**

**Voucher Number Date Total**

<b>1274</b>	<b>2/3/2014</b>	<b>\$20,381.37</b>
<b>1273</b>	<b>2/3/2014</b>	<b>\$338,499.44</b>
<b>1275</b>	<b>2/6/2014</b>	<b>\$1,676.65</b>
<b>1277</b>	<b>2/7/2014</b>	<b>\$192,206.67</b>
<b>1276</b>	<b>2/7/2014</b>	<b>\$4,080.00</b>
<b>1281</b>	<b>2/11/2014</b>	<b>\$78,910.70</b>
<b>1280</b>	<b>2/11/2014</b>	<b>\$415.80</b>
<b>1279</b>	<b>2/11/2014</b>	<b>\$1,728.75</b>
<b>1278</b>	<b>2/11/2014</b>	<b>\$1,876.37</b>
<b>1283</b>	<b>2/12/2014</b>	<b>\$10,080.00</b>
<b>1282</b>	<b>2/12/2014</b>	<b>\$12,690.89</b>
<b>1286</b>	<b>2/13/2014</b>	<b>\$42,662.16</b>
<b>1285</b>	<b>2/13/2014</b>	<b>\$638.00</b>
<b>1284</b>	<b>2/13/2014</b>	<b>\$6,003.29</b>
<b>1295</b>	<b>2/20/2014</b>	<b>\$1,673.40</b>
<b>1296</b>	<b>2/21/2014</b>	<b>\$168,866.30</b>
<b>1297</b>	<b>2/24/2014</b>	<b>\$19,092.96</b>
<b>1299</b>	<b>2/25/2014</b>	<b>\$1,115.09</b>
<b>1298</b>	<b>2/25/2014</b>	<b>\$897.12</b>
<b>1300</b>	<b>2/26/2014</b>	<b>\$7,225.82</b>
<b>1303</b>	<b>2/27/2014</b>	<b>\$1,030.08</b>
<b>1302</b>	<b>2/27/2014</b>	<b>\$165,232.52</b>
<b>1301</b>	<b>2/27/2014</b>	<b>\$2,257.77</b>

1317	2/28/2014	\$976.53
1307	2/28/2014	\$312.50
1306	2/28/2014	\$267.00
1305	2/28/2014	\$1,013.36
1304	2/28/2014	\$4,978.05
Total		\$1,086,788.59

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**•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel**

**INTERVENTION TEACHERS EFFECTIVE MARCH 11, 2014 TO APRIL 17, 2014**

**Luis Oliveira ELL, Middletown High School**

**Gail Sullivan-McCune ELL, Middletown High School**

**John Cunic ELA, Middletown High School**

**Lee-Ann Wells ELA, Middletown High School**

**Paula Bailey Math, Middletown High School**

**Elaine Albanese Forest Avenue School**

**INTERVENTION TEACHERS EFFECTIVE MARCH 18, 2014 TO MAY 1, 2014**

**D'Ellen Roye ELL, J.H. Gaudet School**

**Jessica Beaulieu ELA, J.H. Gaudet School**

**Susan Bittner ELA, J.H. Gaudet School and Middletown High School**

**Cynthia Weininger Math, J.H. Gaudet School**

## **SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 17, 2014**

**Eric Wright Varsity Boys' Tennis**

**Ryan Lauriat Junior Varsity Baseball**

## **SPRING VOLUNTEER COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 17, 2014**

**Jamie Degidio Varsity Baseball**

**Christian LeBlanc Track**

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY**

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Sharon Thibeault District/School Data Support Personnel (217)**

**From February 27, 2014 for approximately 6 to 8 weeks.**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

## **2014-2015 SCHOOL CALENDAR**



**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar. Unanimous vote.**

**In developing the school calendar, nearby districts calendars were reviewed. Parents would rather start school right after Labor Day. New hires will attend an orientation on August 27th and August 28th will be a full-day teacher workshop. The first day for student will be September 2nd. There will be no school on Primary Day, but**

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**there will be a Professional Development Day for teachers. The last day of the 2014-2015 school year will be June 22nd.**

**There is a movement in the state to have just one vacation in March instead of a February and April break. Mrs. Kraeger would like to submit another proposal to the R.I. Department of Education to extend the school day one half hour. The request has been denied in the past.**

## **2014-2015 TUITION RATE**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the 2014-2015 tuition rate. MOTION**

**PASSED 4 TO 1.**

**YAY – Theresa Spengler   NAY – Paul Mankofsky  
Kellie DiPalma Simeone  
Liana Fenton  
William O’Connell**

**Mr. Mankofsky suggested reconsidering the tuition and raise the rates.**

#### **2014-2015 BUDGET**

**MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the 2014-2015 budget in the amount of \$38,775,555. MOTION PASSED 3 TO 2.**

**YAY – Theresa Spengler   NAY – Paul Mankofsky  
Kellie DiPalma Simeone   William O’Connell  
Liana Fenton**

**Mrs. Spengler would like to emphasize that this is a request to the Town Council for a dollar amount that is only a 1.7% increase from last year. The dollar amount is the bare bones to support students at level funding. The school’s increase does not identify any tax increase. Schools have been reorganized to make the budget work within our means.**

**Mr. Mankofsky said that Administration did a good job developing the budget and the Town Council has been accommodating. Mrs. DiPalma Simeone said that we need to put together a budget to meet the needs of our students. This increase will allow what we need to do. Mrs. Kraeger thanked the team for putting the budget together and for their support.**

## **SHARED SERVICES RESOLUTION/BUSINESS PLAN**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approved the Shared Services Resolution and Business Plan. MOTION PASSED 4 TO 1.**

**YAY – Theresa Spengler NAY – Paul Mankofsky  
Kellie DiPalma Simeone  
Liana Fenton  
William O’Connell**

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**Mr. Mankofsky stated that he is not sure what this resolution/business plan does. Many of the items can be done without this specific agreement. How does this fit in with combining services in the Town? Mrs. Kraeger said that this is a 9-month pilot program where Mr. Collins would oversee both districts. We still can**

**collaborate with the Town.**

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 13-14-06. Unanimous vote.**

## **SCHOOL LUNCH CONTRACT**

**MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee table this motion. Unanimous vote.**

**The School Committee would like more time to review the contract. All other communities will bring the contract to their school committees in April.**

## **FACILITIES POLICY**

**AMENDED MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the revised Facilities Policy, with the suggested amendments. Unanimous vote.**

**The athletic field usage fee was raised from \$50 to \$75 per event.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

•**SCHOOL-TO-CAREER** – We are looking at a School Based Coordinator position. This position has been posted jointly with Newport. There has been a large pool of applicants. The start date will be April 1st.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

•**SPECIAL EDUCATION PAYMENT** – A letter was sent from the Portsmouth School Department to the Regional Special Education Program regarding a special education payment. This has been addressed by regional sped board. The region has secured an attorney that has responded with pertinent information.

•**PRE-K PROGRAM** – There is a need to begin exploring opportunities for a Pre-K program in Middletown. Middletown is currently reaching out to other

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communities. Salve Regina University is interested and Portsmouth

could possibly be. Mrs. Fenton inquired about Federal or State funding.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

•**CURRICULUM** – Work is continuing on unit development. Grades 7 and 8 math teachers have met. Algebra I will be the next unit. This is a good opportunity for Middletown High School and Gaudet Middle School math teachers to work together. A program called “Project Lead the Way” was discussed. Mrs. Savastano and Ms. Abromitis have met with a representative from this program. They then met with Administration and teacher leadership at the high school. This program overlays with the districts vision and allows for an implementation plan that is not rushed or costly and builds strong networking in the community. A letter went home to parents notifying them that the PARCC pilot program is starting.

•**FINANCIAL** – Chartwells has seen a net profit of \$5,243 for February for the school lunch program.

\***FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins reported that energy rates are high, but Middletown is staying consistent. Due to the extreme cold this winter, January and February costs will go over what was budgeted. The Facilities Survey is on the website. There was a question regarding people that do not have access to a computer.

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.**

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Mrs. Simeone said that the MEC Fundraiser will be held on Friday, February 28th at the Hyatt.**

**•Mr. O'Connell said that the next meeting of the Unification Committee will be held on March 24th at 6:00 p.m.**

**•Mrs. Simeone reported that at the last meeting of this committee, there was discussion about combining all schools K-12, instead of just the high school.**

**•Mrs. Fenton and Mrs. Simeone attended the Rhode Island State School Committee Meeting. There was discussion about pension and the state budget.**

## **ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 9:02 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**